22 March

Dear Harold:

I am not really an unconscionable wretch - it just seems that way at times.

I have gotten practically nowhere with your book. In fact I am seriously debating returning it and a commensurate portion of your check.

My situation here makes it very difficult to do any work at home. We have not the physical space (having only two rooms), so that willy-nilly I, Ruth and the children are under and on top of each other. My job's hours are such that my free time is in the daytime, which is just when the kids are up and raring.

And then life's little hang-ups further mess me up. I had an impacted wisdom tooth, had it extracted and haven't quite recovered from that. And Ruth depends on me for heavy house work and the like as her time grows closer (she's due in June).

Actually, a few weeks of steady work would probably put your book in shape. I don't see any free few weeks on my horizon.

I have abandoned indefinitely my own writing, and at present I have to tread very carefully to find where I should be at this time in relation to work and other things.

So let me know what you want me to do with the mss, and if you agree, I'll refund half of the $50 you sent me. I haven't done $50 worth of work on it, even at today's Great Society prices.

Sincerely,

Maynard

Maynard